

## MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

MICHIGAN  
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June 20, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners,

As two farmers from rural areas, as well as the Chairs of both the Senate and House Agriculture Committees in Michigan, we are very familiar with the challenges and opportunities facing rural parts of Michigan. We are of the belief that the recently announced merger between T-Mobile USA and AT&T will prove beneficial for Michigan residents, Michigan farmers, and rural citizens in every part of the country.

If the merger is approved, AT&T will be able to offer 4G LTE wireless technology, which is the fastest and most advanced type of wireless broadband, to more than ninety-seven percent of the U.S. population. This mobile connection will be deployed throughout the nation and blanket rural communities with the kind of modern service that they need and deserve. Our sometimes overlooked neighborhoods are at a disadvantage because of their lack of wireless internet; this merger will help to change that.

Perhaps the communities that have the most to gain are our rural farmers and residents living in agriculture communities. By using this wireless technology, rural farmers can access the most up to date weather information or food prices on the market. This will lead to a more efficient and economically prosperous farm. Furthermore, these farmers will benefit from technological advancements that would make it easier to care for crops and fields from remote locations or from miles away. The potential for innovation is a promising benefit of these types of telecommunications proposals.

As experienced representatives who have grown up and continued to work with rural farms, we ask that you heed our advice and consider the many positive benefits of this merger. Rural

parts of Michigan and America are in need of these advancements. Please do the right thing and give this merger your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hune". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being more prominent than the last name "Hune".

Senator Joe Hune  
Chairman  
Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Daley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" being more prominent than the last name "Daley".

Representative Kevin Daley  
Chairman  
Michigan House Agriculture Committee